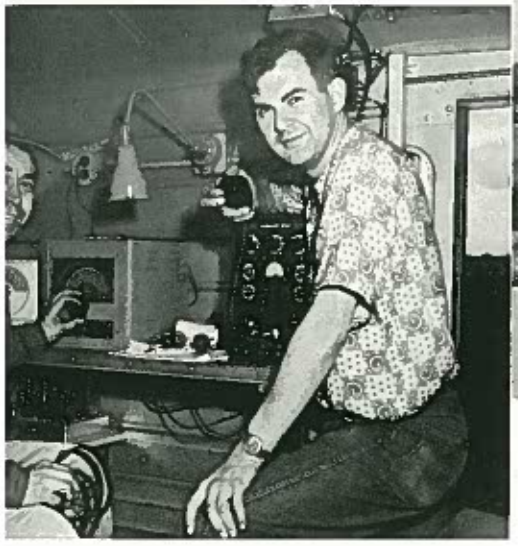
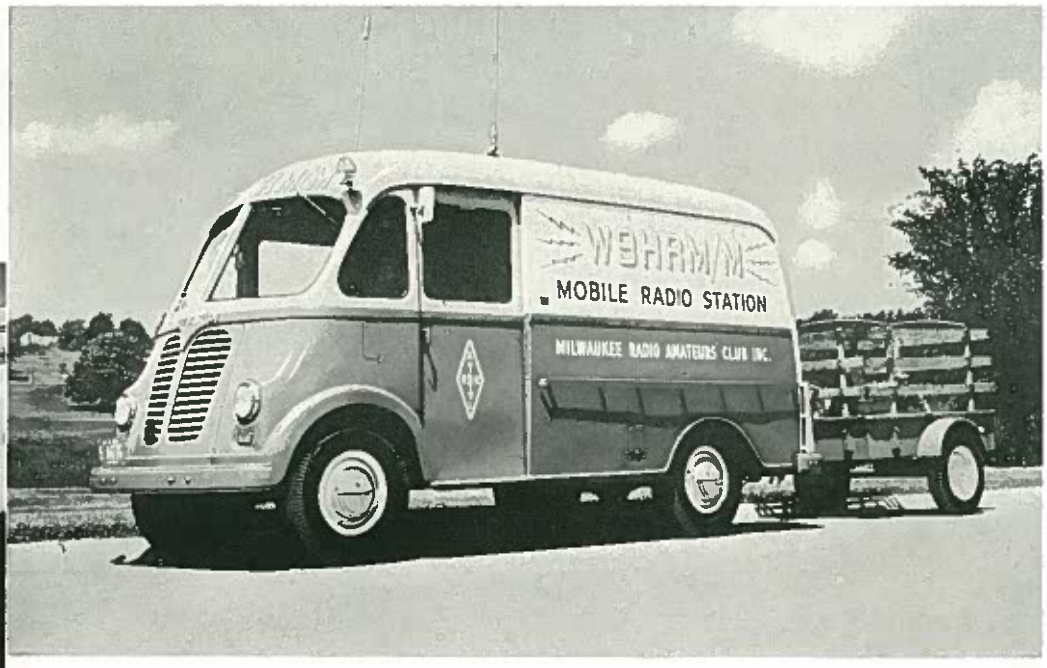
(Below) Civil Defenders in action! Two of Milwaukee's "hams" are shown attending communications equipment housed in the rear of the mobile radio control station. The trim Metro* carries four receivers and two transmitters.

*Metro. Registered trademark of the Metropolitan Body Co., subsidiary of International Harvester Company.





(Above) Focal point of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' emergency network is this International LM-120 with Metro body. The "(h) amateurs" purchased the versatile unit with funds raised in sponsoring an American Radio League convention. Distinctively labeled with the station's call letters, the truck transports its transmitter power unit, a gas-generator, in a trailer.

HAMS' STANDBY ON WHEELS!

A GROUP OF HAMS got into the act as Milwaukee's plan for civil defense was developed. What's more, the municipal planners applauded their performance and assured them a leading role should there ever be need for execution of the program.

The "hams" in this instance, unlike the drama species whose antics aren't always so favorably received, were (h) amateur radio operators of the Wisconsin city. They purchased and equipped an International model LM-120 truck with Metro* body to serve as a mobile radio control station in event of civil disaster or emergency. Members of the organization, the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, have radio transmitters and receivers in their automobiles and form a radio network on wheels. The hams' network provides auxiliary service supplementing Milwaukee's conventional communications system.

Control station for the emergency network is the International truck with capacious Metro body, designated by the headquarters' call letters, "W9HRM/M." The "M" following the regular signal indicates that it is a mobile unit. Equipped with 50 and 150-watt transmitters, the trim red and gray truck also has three station receivers for amateur communications with automobile units, and a fourth receiver which is fixed on the Milwaukee Police Radio Station.

For use at locations where commercial power is not available to the Metro, the truck tows a two and one-half kilowatt gasoline-powered AC generator. In addition, some of the equipment is operated from a truck battery, and for heavy loads it carries a 60-ampere generator. Four antennae are mounted on the truck roof, and for more effective coverage in fixed locations it bears two collapsible 40-foot stainless steel masts.

An energetic affiliate of the American Radio League, Inc., the Milwaukee group established a pattern for other communities in its unique approach to the communications phase of civil defense. Realizing that inadequate communications facilities or the failure to properly co-ordinate existing systems would multiply problems of local civil defense authorities in event of enemy attack or domestic disaster, they devised their own emergency system. A nonprofit organization, they purchased the Metro with funds received from their successful sponsorship of a national convention of the American Radio League. They fitted it out themselves.

"Tests" were next in order. Typical of these was the mobile station's use at the International Sports Car Races at Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin in the summer of 1951. Twenty-five "hams," stationed in automobiles strategically parked around the 7½-mile race course, funneled their observations of the race's progress to the control station. Race sponsors were provided with effective control and timing of the classic.

With the system's mobility and versatility successfully demonstrated, services of the mobile radio truck, its equipment and the skill of the operators were offered to the Milwaukee Civil Defense and Disaster Committee. Civil Defense officials, vitally concerned with formulation of an effective communications system, gratefully accepted the club's offer.

As Civil Defenders, all of the club's 250 members have important roles. While club personnel range from school boys and housewives to top-flight executives, members of the clergy and physicians, theirs is a common goal in time of emergency—"rendering help."

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